

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CU-05 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 EA-11 SAM-01 SCCT-02 COME-00 /199 W

----- 128464

R 251511Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5183

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, S, MR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DADDAH  
TO NIGERIA

SUMMARY: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DADDAH COMPLETED  
VISIT TO NIGERIA ON JULY 20. WHILE ATMOSPHERE FRIENDLY,  
VISIT WAS ROUTINE AND OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE SINCE NIGERIA  
SEES LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR REAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO  
COUNTRIES. MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT WAS AS OPPORTUNITY  
FOR GOWON AND DADDAH TO RE-EMPHASIZE PUBLICITY RESPECTIVE  
FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, AND FOR GOWON TO RESPECT  
EARLIER WARNING TO PORTUGAL TO NEGOTIATE INDEPENDENCE  
OF ITS COLONIES BEFORE ITS TIME RAN OUT. END SUMMARY

1. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH COMPLETED  
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SIX-DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA ON JULY 20. WHILE SPENDING MOST

OF SOJOURN IN LAGOS, HE MADE BRIEF STOPS IN SEVERAL OTHER NIGERIAN CITIES. MINOR AGREEMENTS REPORTEDLY WERE REACHED IN TRADE, FISHING AND CULTURAL FIELDS. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, DADDAH ANNOUNCED ACCEPTANCE OF GOWON INVITATION TO RETURN TO LAGOS NEXT YEAR FOR BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL.

2. FINAL COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JULY 21 CONTAINED USUAL EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH TWO COUNTRIES'S CORDIAL RELATIONS AND OF NEED FOR CONTINUED AFRICAN UNITY. DADDAH ALSO PROMISED TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISHMENT MAURITANIAN EMBASSY IN LAGOS. IN OTHER NOTEWORTHY, THOUGH UNSURPRISING, POINTS GOWON AND DADDAH: A) WELCOMED PROGRESS SO FAR ON FORMATION OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (WAED); B) URGED PORTUGAL TO GRANT UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE TO ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, AND IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE GUINEA-BISSAU; C) EXHORTED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO CLOSE RANKS AGAINST OPPRESSORS; D) CONDEMNED ISRAELI "TERRORISM" AND CALLED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORIES; E) "INVITED" SPAIN TO PROCEED TO TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE DECOLONIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA; AND F) CALLED FOR PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO BE LEFT ALONE TO DETERMINE OWN FUTURE. EARLIER, GOWON HAD ALREADY BROUGHT UP POINTS B, C AND D DURING TOAST TO DADDAH AT STATE BANQUET. COMPLIMENTING NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME'S WISDOM, COURAGE AND FORESIGHT, HE HAD OBSERVED THAT "THERE HAVE BEEN HOPEFUL SIGNS AND GESTURES, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISIVE ACTION" ON LIBERATION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

3. COMMENT: MAIN PURPOSE OF RELATIVELY ROUTINE DADDAH VISIT WAS RETURN OF EARLIER GOWON VISIT TO MAURITANIA IN 1971. WHILE EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION PROBABLY GENUINE, FMG, AS ONE NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL POINTED OUT, SEES LIMITED POTENTIAL FOR REAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

4. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE VISIT POSSESSED THUS LIES IN USE GOWON AND DADDAH MADE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASIZE PUBLICLY RESPECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, MOST SPECIFICALLY MAURITANIAN WISH FOR "INDEPENDENCE" OF SPANISH SAHARA AND FMG DESIRE FOR WAEC FREE OF FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(THOUGH NOT NIGERIAN) INFLUENCE. PERHAPS MORE IMMEDIATELY MEANINGFUL WAS GOWON'S REPETITION OF HIS WARNING TO PORTUGAL OF PREVIOUS WEEK (LAGOS 6475) THAT ITS TIME FOR NEGOTIATION WITH AFRICA AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS RUNNING OUT.

5. ACCORDING TO NEW NIGERIAN, PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) REPRESENTATIVE IN NIGERIA, KHADER

MANSOUR, SENT TELEGRAM TO GOWON COMMENDING NIGERIAN  
AND MAURITANIAN STAND ON MID-EAST. ARTICLE LEFT  
IMPRESSION THAT PLO OFFICE IN NIGERIAN WAS ESTABLISHED  
FACT, BUT, TO BEST EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, PLO IS STILL  
NEGOTIATING WITH FMG FOR PERMISSION TO SET UP BRANCH  
IN NIGERIA (LAGOS 6630).  
REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

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